(c) and (d) The following efforts have been made to raise the production capacity of Salem Steel Plant:

(i) Phase-II of Salem Steel Plant has been commissioned on 26-3-1991 to increase the production capacity to 65000 tonnes of cold rolled stainless steel.

(ii) As a measure of backward integration Phase-HI of Salem Steel Plant (Hot Rolled Steckel > Mill) is scheduled to be commissioned in April, 1995 with a Built-in-capacity to produce 2,00,000 tonnes of Hot Rolled Coil.

(iii) Blanking line has also been set up at Salem Steel Plant in December, 1993 with a capacity to product 3000 tonnes of blanks.

स्पंज लोहे की उत्पादन लागत

2883. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :
श्री ईश दत्त यादव :

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने स्पंज लोहे की उत्पादन लागत का तुलनात्मक अध्ययन नहीं करवाया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) स्पंज लोहे की स्वदेशी उत्पादन लागत को स्थिर रखने हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या प्रयास किये गये हैं ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) :(क) और (ख) स्पंज लोहा उत्पादक इकाइयां मुख्य रूप से निजी क्षेत्र में हैं। स्पंज लोहे की उत्पादन लागत विभिन्न घटकों जैसे स्थान, प्रौद्योगिकी, कच्चे माल की क्वालिटी आदि पर निर्भर करती है। वाणिज्यिक हितों के कारण इकाइयों द्वारा उत्पादन के आंकड़े सामान्यतया गुप्त रखे जाते हैं। तथापि, उल्लेखनीय है कि औद्योगिक लागत तथा मूल्य ब्यूरो ने बताया है कि भारतीय स्पंज लोहा उद्योग अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय रूप से प्रतिस्पर्धी है।

(ग) भारतीय स्पंज लोहा उद्योग को राहत देने के लिए सरकार ने 1994-95 के बजट में लौह अयस्क पैलेटों पर सीमा शुल्क 15% से घटाकर 10% और अकोकर कोयले पर 5 8 % से घटाकर 35 1% कर दिया है। 26-4-1994 से लौह अयस्क पैलेटों पर से सीमा शुल्क को और अधिक घटाकर 5% कर दिया गया।

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Applications for the Post of Stenographers in DDA

2884. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority (D.DA.) had called for applications sometime in the past for the post of Stenographers;

(b) whether D.D.A. had collected examination fee for the said purpose from the applicants;

(c) whether D.D.A. has neither held any examination nor refunded the examination fee to the applicants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what further action D.D.A. propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. DDA has reported that candidates were required to send Postal Order for Rs. 20 in favour of the Delhi Development Authority, being processing charges.

(c) and (d) It is not correct that the examination of candidates was not held. In fact, stenperaphy/typing tests of the short-listed eligible candidates were held on 21-3-1993 and 9th & 10th luly, 1994 and successful candidates were recruited, keeping in view the reservation policy of the Government.

Purchase and Procurement of Flowers

2885. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure followed in *the* purchase and procurement of flowers, decorative material on the visit of foreign dignitaries and to decorate the Samadhis of "national leaders" on their birth and death anniversaries;

(b) whether there is any proposal to award these works to the contractors to effect saving in Government expenditure;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) the procedure followed in the purchase of plants, saplings, manures, earth, pots, shrubs etc. by the Horticulture wings of Central Public Works Department and Delhi Development Authority;

(e) whether the laid down procedures are followed strictly;

(f) the number of complaints received in regard to the irregularities committed in the purchase of said items and the action taken thereon; and

(g) the amount spent in each of the last three years; item-wise and year-wise ?